

July 19, 2014

Hubbardton Selectboard
1831 Monument Hill Road
Castleton, VT 05735

Dear Hubbardton Residents:

Today is an historic day for your historically rich Vermont town: the 250th anniversary of the signing of your town charter. It's a milestone moment that you should be proud to be a part of.

From its first official day as a town, Hubbardton was already a step above the rest; another charter was granted that same day for the town of Dunbar. Now where is Dunbar, you may ask? Well, it doesn't exist...and it never did, because the land for it already had been used for Sudbury. Hubbardton residents took great pride in their home, forming deep roots in the hilly, rocky landscape.

This land that you call home is also home to one of the most successful military actions in American history: the Battle of Hubbardton on July 17, 1777. It was the only engagement of the American Revolution fought entirely on what is now Vermont soil. This fight between the British and the rear guard of American forces directly led to the surrender of British General John Burgoyne and his Army three months later. After the surrender, Burgoyne wrote about the people of Vermont as "the most active and most rebellious race on the continent" and that they were hanging "like a gathering storm" on his left.

That "gathering storm" lives on in the spirit of the 700 people who call Hubbardton home today. In 1830, your town reached its peak population of 865 people and reported smaller and smaller numbers with each passing census. Small towns can easily be swallowed up by larger, neighboring towns, or even disappear altogether, unless the population is fiercely proud of its identity, and you are clearly proud.

Again, Happy Anniversary. Your town is a force of nature in our state's history.

Best Regards,

Phil Scott